



Office of the Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Oliver Industrial Park will add distribution facility

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A South Bend firm that manages and develops warehouse distribution facilities in nine Midwestern states is seeking to develop its largest South Bend facility in the Oliver Industrial Park.

RAITT Corp., 815 W. Sample St., is seeking to buy a five-acre parcel in the Oliver Industrial Park along Chapin Street to construct a 50,000-square-foot warehouse facility for lease to as many as three tenants. The company's request will be considered Friday (Sept. 7, 2007) by the Redevelopment Commission.

The parcel is on the 900 block of Oliver Plow Court, property that is part of lot No. 1 in the industrial park. Construction could begin late in 2007 or early in 2008, but is stipulated to occur within three years.

"In a previous era, Oliver Corp. built farm implements to open up America to farming. This new facility in the Oliver Industrial Park will open up new opportunities for distribution of materials, goods and supplies from South Bend to locations across the Midwest," said Mayor Stephen J. Luecke. "The City of South Bend is pleased to welcome the expansion of a locally based business to help our efforts to revitalize the area."

The firm already has three facilities in South Bend:

- A 41,000-square-foot facility on more than 11 acres at 1415 S. Olive St.
- A 42,000-square-foot facility on more than 11 acres at 815 W. Sample St.
- A 24,000-square-foot facility that's part of 11 acres at 1311 S. Olive St.

Founded in 1956, RAITT Corp. seeks to provide real-estate solutions for the

transportation industry, particularly trucking firms. “With facilities located throughout nine states we provide real estate solutions and services to various businesses and some of today's leaders in the commercial freight industry,” according to a statement on the company’s web site. “We work closely with all of our tenants to ensure that our facilities meet the requirements and readiness standards for their daily operations. Not only does this ensure that our facilities remain in top physical form, but it allows our customers to invest their time in what really counts, their business.”

The 36-acre Oliver Industrial Park, just southwest of downtown South Bend at Ind. 23 and Chapin Street, is the culmination of a five-year redevelopment effort by the City of South Bend and its Redevelopment Commission. The former vacant factory complex underwent demolition, environmental cleanup and the construction of new infrastructure to serve a modern industrial complex. Oliver Industrial Park symbolizes the vision that the City has for the entire Studebaker/Oliver Project Area: The revitalization of vacant dinosaur properties into parcels that will be home to thriving businesses for years to come

The Oliver Industrial Park is home since summer 2004 to Rose Brick & Materials, which renovated the former Oliver Chilled Plow Works boiler house and smokestack into a commercial building. Four other parcels are available for sale in the industrial park.